

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2010

SWAC Members

Mark Glazer, Chair	Steve Findley	Marcia Marks
Steve Sprague, Vice Chair	Odell Hall	Kurt Osuch
Sara Ducey	Paula Jenson	Craig Simoneau
Susan Filocco	Lee Levine	Ed Violette

Absent:

County Staff

Angela Jordan, DSWS
Eileen Kao, DSWS
Gabie Monzon-Reynolds, DSWS
Alan Pultyniewicz, DSWS

Guests

Richard Anderson, M-NCPPC
Alvaro Astoria, M-NCPPC
Ellen Bennett, M-NCPPC
Gene Giddens, M-NCPPC
Peter Hartwell, Covanta Energy
Mike Horrigan, N-NCPPC
Jim Humerick, M-NCPPC
Stephanie Oberle, M-NCPPC
Liza Reyes, MHP
Brian Woodward, M-NCPPC

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. on January 5, 2010, at the Executive Office Building in the Lobby Level Auditorium.

The Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting, and introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting were approved, but the November 3, 2009 minutes were tabled until the February meeting.

Subcommittee/Ad Hoc Group Reports – The Nominating Committee met with candidates for interviews. It was reported that the interviews went well and a recommendation memo was sent to the Office of the County Executive.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

The Chair gave the floor to the staff of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

- **Gene Giddens** – Mr. Giddens introduced the staff of the M-NCPPC and gave an overview of the Department of Parks. M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency that is responsible for the operation of both Prince George's and Montgomery County

parks. Over 410 parks and facilities are located on 35,000 acres of parkland in Montgomery County. Both public and private partnerships help in providing agricultural, recreational, and environmental resources to County residents. Of all County agencies, Mr. Giddens feels that the Department of Parks should be leading the way in recycling.

- The proposed FY11 budget has led to some difficult choices.
 - There are 741 total positions in the department, with 65 of them frozen under the County imposed hiring freeze. Between FY10 and FY11, approximately 100-120 frozen positions will equate to a job lapse of 7.5 percent.
 - The department continues to service increased needs while the amount of funding decreases.
 - The mandatory savings plan recommended by the CE and approved by the CC required all County agencies to trim their budgets, which led to \$2.2 million being cut from the Parks' FY10 operating budget.
- Park volunteers are a valuable and significant resource of manpower for picking up litter, sorting through trash for recyclables, and observing various issues for staff to address. They log in many volunteer hours.
- Illegal dumping is a constant problem. Bulky materials, such as mattresses, refrigerators, clothes dryers, etc. are illegally disposed of on park grounds.
- **Stephanie Oberle** - Ms. Oberle discussed the recycling program at Brookside Gardens. It is a very large public garden located at Wheaton Regional Park and is visited by over 400,000 people annually. The mission of Brookside Gardens is to provide educational, recreational, and leisure opportunities in a garden setting to teach its visitors about horticulture and other "green" practices, like composting, with the hope of adopting similar practices in their own communities and elsewhere. The staff is primarily responsible for recycling initiatives on the grounds.
 - Composting of yard trim materials takes place on-site, so all organic matter can be put back into the soil. All green plant material is recycled into compost to naturally enrich the soil and eliminate the use of fertilizers. The process takes about 8-10 months.
 - Brookside Gardens teamed up with DEP to install a rain garden. It is a low-cost option to capture rainwater to be reused on the grounds, as well as a way to reduce polluted run-off water from getting into the streams.
 - Staff works with vendors to ensure all Brookside Garden events are in compliance with waste management policies.

- Other on-site “green” initiatives have been implemented for employees and visitors:
 - Water bottles are no longer provided to the public. They installed water fountains that allow users to refill their water bottles.
 - High-powered dryers are used in lieu of paper towels in all of the restrooms.
 - Installation of recycled carpeting and the procurement of green cleaning products.
 - Reduction in paper and ink use by using a central copier for printing and copying functions.
 - Their office no longer purchases paper plates or disposable utensils for office events which have resulted in further savings.
- **Richard Anderson, Recycling Coordinator (contractor)** – Mr. Anderson shared the complexities of M-NCPPC’s solid waste collection process. M-NCPPC is a licensed hauler with DSWs for both refuse and recycling collection. Trash, recycling, and yard waste are collected at their parks and facilities. Montgomery Parks are made up of regional, local and recreational parks, ice rinks, tennis courts, nature trails, and more. While their initial objective was to improve their recycling program, developing a comprehensive waste management program is important for success. Mr. Anderson is proud of the work the Parks Department has done.
 - **Trash** - Trash is collected by staff from its facilities and is transported to one of their five maintenance centers, where it is picked up by Allied Waste.
 - The trash collected is primarily generated by community use and staff.
 - Illegal dumping has been a problem at County parks. By placing 30 cubic yard containers on-site at the maintenance centers, people are likely to use it, instead of leaving materials on the grounds. Approximately 11 to 20 loads of illegally dumped waste are recovered per month.
 - **Recycling** – Park employees service the individual recycling containers that are placed throughout the regional and recreational parks. These materials are placed into central collection containers that are then serviced by the Parks’ recycling collection company.
 - All permits for park events require the use of recycling containers which must be located next to trash cans.

- The construction division handles renovation projects, with a focus on reuse. Concrete, asphalt, and metals recovered are recycled.
- Every facility has a recycling captain and team to help with recycling efforts; they are always looking for more volunteers to help.
- Yard Waste - Yard waste that is collected from the parks/facilities is composted at three locations – Brookside Gardens, Meadowbrook, and Pope Farm.
- Crews are dispatched throughout the parks to trim trees and cut grass. The green clippings are recovered and sent to be composted. Grass clippings are grasscycled on-site and are not collected.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair asked the committee for topics to be addressed at the annual meeting with the CE to take place on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. The Chair explained what the meeting entails and what the objective is. Each committee has five to eight minutes with the CE to discuss issues that they deem are pertinent to the mission of the group.

The three talking points that will be voiced to the CE will be:

- Budget
- Supporting a way to increase the ability to collect refuse & recycling at both Parks and schools to meet County recycling goals
- SWAC & DAFIG to Remain Separate

Mr. Simoneau asked if the County Council receives a letter from SWAC as part of the budget process. He requested that the second item listed above be included in the annual letter sent to the Council, so it is part of budget process.

A motion was then made (Simoneau) and seconded (Violette) to have the three items, and empower the Chair and three people to give it to the CE. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

ACRONYMS

CC	County Council
CE	County Executive

DEP Department of Environmental Protection
 DSWS Division of Solid Waste Services
 FY Fiscal Year
 MES Maryland Environmental Service
 MHP Montgomery Housing Partnership
 M-NCPPC Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission
 SWAC Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE													
2010 ATTENDANCE													
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months
Ducey, Sara	X												-1
Findley, Steve	X												-1
Filocco, Susan	X												-2

[illegible]

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SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2009 ATTENDANCE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie		X			X								-2	RESIGNED
Ducey, Sara					X	X			X	X	X		-1	
Findley, Steve	X	X	X			X			X	X	X		-1	
Filocco, Susan					X				X	X	X		-2	
Frank, David	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X			TERM EXPIRED
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X		X	X			X		X		-1	
Hall, Odell		X				X					X			WAIVER GRANTED 11/09
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X				X	X		-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X		X	X			X	X	X		-1	
Lee, Ed	X	X	X			X				X			-2	RESIGNED 11/09
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X			X	X	X		-1	
Marks, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X			
Osuch, Kurt			X		X				X	X	X		-1	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X			X			X	X	X		-1	
Sprague, Steve	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			-1	
Violette, Ed	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X			
